# EXHIBIT D

**From:** Jason Binford <jason.binford@rsbfirm.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 6, 2024 7:30 PM

**To:** Bloom, Mark; Ron Satija; Michael Conway; Tobin, Shane P. (USTP); Todd Headden

(theadden@haywardfirm.com); Burch, Alexander

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: artiusi.D - Status Conference Transcript

Attachments: Austin\_ArtiusID\_080124.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

Attached is a copy of the 8/1 status conference transcript.

#### **Jason Binford**

Shareholder

### ROSS, SMITH & BINFORD, PC

Website | vCard | LinkedIn

From: Bloom, Mark < Mark. Bloom@bakermckenzie.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 2:04 PM

To: Ron Satija <rsatija@satijatrustee.com>; Jason Binford <jason.binford@rsbfirm.com>; Michael Conway

<mconway@lpgmlaw.com>; Tobin, Shane P. (USTP) <Shane.P.Tobin@usdoj.gov>; Todd Headden

(theadden@haywardfirm.com) < theadden@haywardfirm.com>; Burch, Alexander

<Alexander.Burch@bakermckenzie.com>

Subject: Re: artiusi.D followup call on draft Order from Status Conference

Just where is your needle, Ron? Surely you don't deny that the Judge agreed to enter the stay and discharge you of responsibility for estate assets during the pendency of that stay. Respectfully, that announcement on the record puts you in the back seat or outside the car entirely, not asking to see a map so that you can drive it.

In deference to your desire to see a transcript I will schedule another call for late tomorrow afternoon. You should keep in mind, however, that the additional features you and the USTrustee have requested for inclusion in the proposed Order go well beyond anything that you will find in that transcript. We have agreed to all or substantially all of those requests in an effort to submit an Order promptly on a simple and straightforward status conference at which we announced and the Judge accepted our intention to proceed in the manner spelled out by the Bankruptcy Code and Rules, but we do not have infinite patience to negotiate with you over points that have been addressed and to which you and Todd offered no objection in the original draft order presented.

From: Ron Satija <<u>rsatija@satijatrustee.com</u>> Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 2:51:56 PM

**To:** Bloom, Mark < <u>Mark.Bloom@bakermckenzie.com</u> >; <u>jason.binford@rsbfirm.com</u> < <u>jason.binford@rsbfirm.com</u> >; <u>Michael Conway < <u>mconway@lpgmlaw.com</u> >; <u>Tobin, Shane P. (USTP) < <u>Shane.P.Tobin@usdoj.gov</u> >; <u>Todd Headden@haywardfirm.com</u> >; <u>Burch, Alexander</u></u></u>

<<u>Alexander.Burch@bakermckenzie.com</u>>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: artiusi.D followup call on draft Order from Status Conference

All: this call is not useful for me until we get the transcript tomorrow. The needle has not moved for me since yesterday's call.

Ron

Ron Satija U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee P.O. Box 660208 Austin, TX 78766-7208 (737) 881-7102

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Bloom, Mark < <a href="mailto:Mark.Bloom@bakermckenzie.com">Mark <a href="mailto:Mark.Bloom.Blo

Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 8:37 AM

To: Bloom, Mark; <a href="mailto:jason.binford@rsbfirm.com">jason.binford@rsbfirm.com</a>; Michael Conway; Tobin, Shane P. (USTP); Todd Headden

(theadden@haywardfirm.com); Ron Satija; Burch, Alexander

Subject: artiusi.D followup call on draft Order from Status Conference

When: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 4:00 PM-4:30 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: https://bakermckenzie.zoom.us/j/92032819050?pwd=NavMy1AAklxbV7jRa3dDUrNOpuJObr.1

Mark Bloom is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

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ID:

Password:507324



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### UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS AUSTIN DIVISION

IN RE: ARTIUSID, INC,	) CASE NO: 23-11007-cgb
	) CHAPTER 7
	)
	) Austin, Texas
	)
	) Thursday, August 1, 2024
Debtor.	) 1:38 p.m. to 1:40 p.m.
	) 2:00 p.m. to 2:25 p.m.
1-1) MOTTON FOR REHEARING	OF THE ORDER FOR RELIEF ID E NO 62

OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE MOTION FOR STAY PENDING APPEAL

[DKT.NO.70]

BEFORE THE HONORABLE CHRISTOPHER G. BRADLEY, UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

APPEARANCES: See page 2

Courtroom Deputy: Ronda Farrar

Court Reporter [ECRO]: Blayne Turner; Recorded

Transcribed by: Exceptional Reporting Services, Inc.

P.O. Box 8365

Corpus Christi, TX 78468

361 949-2988

Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording; transcript produced by transcription service.

**APPEARANCES:** 

For Debtor: MARK D. BLOOM, ESQ.

ALEXANDER D. BURCH, ESQ.

2

MARK TAYLOR, ESQ. Baker McKenzie 111 Brickell Ave.

10th Floor

Miami, FL 33131 305-789-8900

MEICHELLE MACGREGOR, ESQ. Cowan Liebowitz & Latman

For Petitioning MICHAEL CONWAY, ESQ.

Creditors: Lazare Potter Giacovas & Moyle

747 Third Ave. 16th Floor

New York, NY 10017

917-242-1597

JASON B. BINFORD, ESQ. Ross Smith & Binford

2901 Via Fortuna

Building 6, Suite 450

Austin, TX 78746

512-351-4778

Also present: KEVIN GOLDSTEIN

DAVID LEVY

For Creditors: REAGAN H. "TRES" GIBBS, III, ESQ.

Cokinos Law 1221 Lamar St.

16th Floor

Houston, TX 77010

713-535-5500

For Chapter 7 Trustee: RON SATIJA, ESQ.

TODD HEADDEN, ESQ.

Hayward

7600 Burnet Road

Suite 530

Austin, TX 78757 737-881-7102

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    and one of the petitioning creditors is on, Kevin Goldstein.
 2
              We agree that we believe that's the case. And I was
    waiting for somebody to tell me whether we should ask you for
 3
    20 minutes or so we're fine with the 20 minutes.
 4
              THE COURT: Okay. Does anybody object to taking a
 5
 6
    20-minute. We haven't even finished taking appearances but
 7
    does anybody want to make an appearance in order to lodge their
 8
    objection?
 9
              MR. SATIJA: This is Ron Satija, the Chapter 7
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    Trustee. And I have no objection to chilling out on -- for 20
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    minutes, turning off my sound, turning off my microphone and
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    video and all that stuff, and letting them talk on the Zoom if
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    that's what's going to happen. I just wanted to make sure they
14
    didn't want me in it.
15
              THE COURT: I'll let them tell you that.
16
              Okay. So we will recess for 20 minutes. Yeah, as
17
    Mr. Satija noted, you're welcome. Just make sure you mute
18
    yourself because I don't want to transmit secret intelligence
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    on the court record but we will take a recess. I'll be back at
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    2:00 Central Time. Thank you-all.
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         (Proceeding adjourned at 1:40 p.m. and reconvened at
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    2:00 p.m.)
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              THE COURT: This is Judge Bradley. We're going to go
    back on the record in ArtiusID, Inc.; Case Number 23-11107
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25
    [sic].
            We're still here on a status hearing on Docket
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    but yeah, I'm curious to hear the results of that meeting, Your
 2
    Honor.
              THE COURT: Yeah, okay. No, it certainly wasn't your
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 4
    fault so thank you.
 5
              Okay. Mr. Headden?
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              MR. HEADDEN: Yes. Good afternoon, Your Honor.
 7
    Headden. I am potential counsel to the Chapter 7 Trustee,
 8
    Mr. Ron Satija.
 9
              THE COURT: Okay, thank you.
10
              Okay, any other appearances?
11
              MR. CONWAY: Your Honor, Michael Conway. I was just
12
    pointing out that now two of the petitioning creditors are on,
13
    David Levy (phonetic) and Kevin Goldstein.
14
              THE COURT: Great, thank you. Good afternoon,
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    Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Levy.
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              MR. GOLDSTEIN: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
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              MR. LEVY: (inaudible).
18
                          Okay. Who wants to move on this, now
              THE COURT:
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    that it sounds like you-all may have something. Mr. Bloom?
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              MR. BLOOM: Yes, that would be me, Your Honor.
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              And first let me begin by thanking the Court for the
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    privilege of appearing pro hoc vice in what, fingers crossed,
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    may be a fairly short-lived matter from this point forward. I
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    say that because as we confirmed through the 20-minute
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    adjournment that the Court so graciously granted us, there is
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an agreement between the Debtor and the three petitioning creditors for the payment of a fixed sum of money in a single payment to be placed in the trust account of one of the New York counsel for all or certain of the petitioning creditors.

Just for the record it's Mr. Giacovas. And I speak from ignorance about the name of his firm or exactly whom he represents but it was agreeable to all parties that the money would go there forthwith.

Once that happens we think that puts two wheels in motion about which we would ask the Court's indulgence.

The first is that under Section 303(j) of the Code, a dismissal upon consent requires notice to all creditors and a hearing. And so as I didn't see anything in Bankruptcy

Rule 2002 about the notice period that governs that hearing -- and perhaps I overlooked it -- our thinking is that with the Court's indulgence, we would confer about a proposed timeframe and submit that to the Court as part of the stipulation and consent for dismissal, requesting a hearing on some notice period to be set forth. Obviously the notice would go to

Mr. Gibbs in respect of his client and to any other creditors whom we can identify who would be entitled to notice within the scope of Section 303(j).

During this period, we would ask and we have the consent of the petitioning creditors, to the entry of a stay of the order for relief in all respects on the proviso that the

Mr. Satija?

24

25

MR. SATIJA: So far, having read the Court's order setting hearing and having studied 303 a little bit more, thereafter talking to my bonding and insurance people, I mean so far I've got to say I'm not in favor of this. We got no list of creditors, have no idea who needs to be provided notice of this case. We have a debtor who has said that their debts were disputed and yet I mean the testimony cited to by the Court in its order scheduling hearing indicates those debts were not really disputed. So I've got a lot of questions here before I'm willing to sign off on any kind of a procedure dismissing this case.

THE COURT: So I guess the question is -- I do want to protect you, Mr. Satija. On the other hand, you know if it's really and insofar as you can represent the views of creditors, if -- you certainly I think can be heard at the hearing on a motion to dismiss.

I guess the question is in terms of your bonding, in terms of your responsibilities and so on, would the stay sufficiently protect you? What I don't want to do is leave you on the hook for liability or for responsibilities that you can't meaningfully conduct if I grant the stay. That said, I think the stay -- to me, Mr. Bloom's proposal sounds pretty reasonable. I don't see anybody being prejudiced by it.

I want to hear from Mr. Gibbs for sure but, you know, do you have specific concerns in terms of your exposure as the

appointed, I guess, technically, interim trustee?

expenses.

MR. SATIJA: Well I mean I'm working through those issues with my bonding and insurance people. I think the bond is not an issue. I'm going to need I think an additional insurance policy if I'm going to be the trustee of a business that's going to operate for any amount of time under my trusteeship or whatever the heck you call it. So you know I mean there's going to be some costs, there's going to be some

But I don't think this is about -- like my consideration is not about me, you know. I mean we don't have a list of creditors in this case. There's no way Your Honor can make a decision that no one is prejudiced by this when we don't even know who the creditors are. There may be a trade creditor that's owed 800 bucks that's like, yeah, I don't want that case to dismiss, I want my 800 bucks.

THE COURT: Sure.

MR. SATIJA: And it's not just -- it's not just

Mr. Binford's clients and it's not just the other petitioning

creditors. It could be anybody. We don't know. I don't think

we know enough to know.

THE COURT: Right. Okay. I think -- now whether 303(j) technically applies after an order for relief is entered, I don't know but I think that to me, notwithstanding my probably the longest order that's ever been entered on a

status hearing, I think there's at least a plausible argument for vacating the motion or order for relief.

I mean the 303(j) procedure, if it's engaged in, that will be the relief requested. So I gather that what Mr. Bloom is asking for technically is what we'll -- I'll impose a stay.

I will on the -- and that language and Mr. Bloom I'm sure would be happy to work to include language that protects you, Mr. Satija. And then he would -- and then we abate consideration of this other -- the motion that we're here for today which is easy to do. It's just a status hearing anyway so we don't have to -- we weren't even set to decide anything today on it. And then we're just waiting for -- we're not going to set this again, we're just going to wait for a promised motion to dismiss pursuant to 303(j).

And you know, I don't know what the U.S. Trustee is going to say, I don't know what other creditors may say, I don't know what you're going to say, Mr. Satija, but procedurally I don't mind teeing it up that way.

I mean Mr. Bloom, you might want to include, as an alternative grounds on the motion for a dismissal under Chapter 7, just a normal motion to dismiss Chapter 7 case.

If the U.S. Trustee for instance is unhappy with using 303(j), I don't know that that would matter either way.

I've never actually had -- I've never worked on a 303(j). I've worked on a lot of involuntary cases but never a 303(j) motion

in particular. So you could cast your relief requested as an alternative between those two.

MR. BLOOM: Point taken, Your Honor.

And our view is that if, as I mentioned, as part of getting us across the 303(j) finish line, the order for relief is stayed in all respects, then in our view that would protect Mr. Satija by discharging him from his responsibilities because if there's no order for relief, or let me say if the order for relief is not operative because it's been stayed, then similarly he would not have any responsibilities, he would be discharged temporarily pending the outcome of the 303(j) dismissal proceeding.

THE COURT: Thank you.

So if Mr. Satija incurs expenses that he has to incur between -- you know then from I guess between the order for relief and now, or if he thinks the stay doesn't protect him, then that would be a grounds on which I would condition dismissal on payment of those fees.

Mr. Bloom, you don't know Mr. Satija maybe at all. I mean I do know him well. He's not -- you know he doesn't pad fees. He's not seeking to get a free lunch here. So there may be nothing but that would be reasonable grounds for partial objection to the motion to dismiss. The U.S. Trustee might again weigh in on that but other than that, I don't see a problem with this procedure but I need to hear from other

any problems with appeal or anything like that.

Okay. Mr. Gibbs, you've been very patient. Thank

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    you.
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              MR. GIBBS:
                          Well, Your Honor, candidly, I don't mind
    because I'm still kind of thinking through. And obviously I'd
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    like to discuss with my client you know what we think our
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 5
    strategy and response should be but my overarching concern is
    that there's going to be a settlement to resolve, you know,
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 7
    large claims to the petitioning creditors that doesn't take
 8
    into account the large and what I believe is an undisputed
    claim of my client, a non-petitioning creditor.
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              So again, Your Honor, it's kind of difficult to you
    know make -- have a strong feeling one way or the other without
11
12
    having a chance to visit with the client and think through it a
13
    little more.
14
              THE COURT: Okay, thank you. Yeah so I don't think
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    anybody is interpreting your presence here or your not making
16
    arguments right now as consent to anything. But I'm going to
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    go ahead and -- so does anybody else wish to weigh in? I'm
18
    sorry, I should have said that.
19
              MR. SATIJA: Your Honor, may I?
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              THE COURT: Please. Yeah, please, Mr. Satija.
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              MR. SATIJA: May I speak again?
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              THE COURT: Yes, please.
23
                           Okay. Well I have two things that I
              MR. SATIJA:
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    wanted to explore, one of which I'm definitely going to insist
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    on.
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for that in there.

anything in this case -- which I don't know how much longer that's going to last -- I want a list of all the creditors in the case. So I want a turnover of Debtor's books and records so that I can ensure that this Section 303(j) standard of "on notice to all creditors" is met. I mean, I don't even know that I have Mr. Gibbs' clients address you know so that's -that part of it is troubling to me. I just think -- I don't think you can dip your toe in bankruptcy and then, you know, even against your will once the order for relief is entered and then jump out of it without just at least complying with those procedural due process requirements for all the creditors. all I know Mr. Gibbs' client could oppose the dismissal but I don't think he's on a matrix so I don't know that he's ever going to get that opportunity. And then second, Your Honor had said that a stay would only be entered conditioned upon payment of the Chapter 7 Trustee's fees. You said "fees," you didn't mention expenses. I'm hoping that you can include the expenses in there, you know, and free lunch is cool too -- I'm not saying that -- but

As long as I'm a party that has standing to do

I mean, I don't know, I'm not going to hold the Court to what it said, like obviously some weird stuff has come out in this case and the Court hasn't made a ruling. I mean the

you know so we're going to have to have some provision I think

1 | Court only set a hearing and gave us guidance.

So I'm comfortable with whatever the Court decides to do on that front. If the Court says, you know, "Nah, you didn't distribute any money under 326, you know you don't get any money or whatever," I mean I don't care about that but I am still worried about the whole notice to all creditors thing. So it may be -- and I bet that's what the U.S. Trustee would say if they were here, although I don't speak to them and am not a member of the United States Department of Justice.

THE COURT: Okay.

11 MR. BLOOM: I can respond to that one if the Court
12 would like.

THE COURT: Yeah, please.

MR. BLOOM: Sure. Absolutely the intention is to give notice to all creditors because that's required. And certainly we will share and prepare and share with Mr. Satija that list of creditors. So that concern is certainly well founded and we intend to respond to it.

As to the two other points, though, first the order for relief is not a final order and therefore it is subject to the Court's inherent power to stay it under Rule 7062. There's a 14-day period during which it is subject to rehearing and then a 14-day period during which it's subject to appeal. So during that period we are asking the Court to exercise its jurisdiction, it's authority under Rule 7062 to issue a stay of

the effectiveness of the order and that stay would have the effect of discharging the trustee from his responsibilities temporarily.

Nevertheless, we will provide him with a list of creditors. We will provide him with notice of the 303(j) hearing as the petitioning creditors and the Debtor may agree on and present to the Court.

But I think Mr. Satija may have misspoke when he suggested that the Court was going to condition the stay on the payment of his expenses. We need the stay in effect today so that parenthetically we can make payroll tomorrow to keep this business running while we perfect this settlement.

And we do understand completely that as a condition of any 303(j) dismissal, the Court has the right and Mr. Satija has the right certainly to request that his fees and expenses be covered. He and I have had several conversations since our firm was retained in this case late Friday. They've all been cordial and productive and I would expect we would continue in exactly that same vein to address his concerns about his fees and expenses.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

And Mr. Satija, I'll say too that whatever stay it is would not prejudice your rights to appear and be heard. So your duties and responsibilities may be suspended but you'd still have the right to be heard, is my view.

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1
              Okay. Does anyone else want to weigh in on this at
    this time?
 2
              Okay well --
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 4
              MR. SATIJA: If I may say one --
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              THE COURT: Yeah, please.
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              MR. SATIJA: If I may say one final thing, Your
 7
    Honor?
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              If the order can be circulated to me for review?
 9
              THE COURT: Can be circulated to do what?
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              MR. SATIJA: I don't know who's preparing the order
11
    but I just want to take a look at it.
12
              THE COURT: Yeah, please, yeah, please circulate
13
    it --
14
              MR. BLOOM: Most definitely.
15
              THE COURT: -- to Mr. Satija and again to the United
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    States Trustee as well who now may feel like they're coming
17
    from behind. But hopefully Mr. Satija and Mr. Binford and
18
    others who -- and Mr. Headden who can be in touch with that
19
    office easily may be able to fill them in.
20
              Yeah, I mean look, I think it's a really complicated
21
    situation. Obviously procedurally I think this is an admirable
22
    way of working through it. I appreciate you-all's work on
23
    that.
24
              Mr. Bloom, I appreciate your kind of thoughtful and
25
    deliberate way of approaching this. You did a good job.
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it's obviously procedurally a very tricky one.

MR. BLOOM: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: So we will -- okay so I'm going to be -- we have to make sure we get the order on the docket correctly.

So we're going to just leave this motion. We're going to abate the hearing on this motion. Is the courtroom deputy amenable to that way of putting it? Okay.

And then we're going to wait for an order staying the effectiveness of the order for relief in all respects, frankly with the exceptions that we've already talked about which I don't think necessarily need to be in the order but if you-all can find language to put them in, go ahead and put them in but otherwise it's on the record and that's what we're intending by this in terms of the trustee's role and so he has the right to appear and his -- the reasonable fees and expenses that he's incurred will be considered at any 303(j) or 707 hearing. But he has no responsibilities as to act as Chapter 7 Trustee as soon as that stay is entered which it will be shortly which I want that just as -- I think that's important to provide comfort in that way.

And then the question is to put notice and then we'll wait for you-all's motion to dismiss the case and motion to expedite the motion to dismiss the case. And as long as you know it's got to -- again, this may be a U.S. Trustee conversation too. Just we've got to make sure that notice is

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1 reasonable to the creditors. I don't know what that means here because I really don't know what the creditor body looks like 3 here.

And then it sounds like maybe Mr. Gibbs' client is going to be the biggest hindrance to this. So again, I don't know anything about those claims, I don't know the size of them, I don't know the degree of contestedness but obviously I would urge you-all to work something out there too.

You know, maybe it cost the Debtor a little bit but that's the difficulty of putting the genie back in the bottle. So again, I'm not trying to prejudice anything, I just don't know what it is but I think clearly it would be nice if you-all could have some conversations about that.

In terms of our schedule, we're pretty you know I think -- I don't think this is going to be a super lengthy hearing hopefully so I think we have some flexibility next week in terms of scheduling so we should be able to fit you in. don't have a self-scheduling capacity like a lot of districts do so I apologize for that for those of you who are from other districts and you may be used to that but we are responsive on scheduling and we'll be able to get you in. We're around and ready to go next week. Okay?

MR. BLOOM: Thank you, Your Honor. We will settle an order and submit it as quickly as possible. It will be a simple order just saying upon consideration, referring to the

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    record, and then setting forth these basic and essential terms.
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              What we need to work out with the petitioning
    creditors is the list of creditors to be noticed. The trustee
 3
    will be involved in that and that also, the notice period,
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 5
    prior to the hearing to which the Court just referred.
 6
              THE COURT: Okay. Does anyone else need to be heard
 7
    at this time?
         (No audible response)
 8
 9
              Okay. Again, I just want to thank you-all. I think
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    this is excellent work. And Mr. Bloom, your colleagues have
    not been around for this whole case. It's been quite a path
11
12
    that it has been down and you could tell and I really
13
    appreciate all this work and I'm hopeful that -- hopefully this
14
    will be a good outcome for the Debtor and for the parties in
15
    interest.
16
              So thank you-all. We're adjourned.
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         (Proceeding adjourned at 2:25 p.m.)
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#### CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

Join I Judson

August 6, 2024

Signed

Dated

TONI HUDSON, TRANSCRIBER